

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 8 and 11 are amended, and claims 2 and 9 are canceled. Claims 1 and 8 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 9, respectively, and claims 4 and 11 are written in independent form.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Mr. Zibelli during the October 18 and October 19 interview. During the interview, Mr. Zibelli asserted that the features of calculation of the offset value being permitted when an absolute value of the current value is within a predetermined range as recited in claims 2 and 9 and calculation of the offset value being permitted when an absolute value of the current value is within a predetermined range is continued for a predetermined time as recited in claims 4 and 11 is not within the Ohkubo reference. Examiner Nguyen agreed to reconsider this rejection. No other matters were discussed during the interview.

The indication in the Office Action that claims 3, 5-7, 10 and 12-14 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is appreciated. However, for the reasons set forth below, it is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 4, 8-9 and 11 under 35 USC 103 over Ohkubo (US Pat. 6,621,250). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention as recited in claims 1 and 8 is directed to permit calculation of an offset value when a current value detected by a current sensor is switched from a negative value to a positive value or from a positive value to a negative value and “when an absolute value of the current value is within a predetermined range.” Claims 4 and 11 are directed to permit calculation of an offset value when a current value detected by a current sensor is switched from a negative value to a positive value or from a positive value to a negative value and “when a state where an absolute value of the current value is within a predetermined range is continued for a predetermined time.”

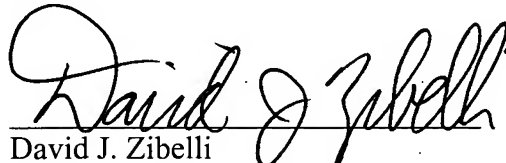
The Office Action asserts that the recited conditions “when an absolute value of the current value is within a predetermined range” and “when an absolute value of the current value is within a predetermined range for a predetermined time” are disclosed in Ohkubo at col. 3, lines 1-7 and lines 15-20. However, these portions of Ohkubo disclose that an integrated value calculated by integrating current values that are detected during a period from the instant a battery is fully charged previously to the instant it is fully charged this time contains offset values. Ohkubo does not disclose such a predetermined range for a current value, an absolute value of the current value being within the predetermined range, or an absolute value of the current value is within a predetermined range for a predetermined time as required by claims 1 and 4, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 8 and 11, and all claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by Ohkubo.

For the above reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4232 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,


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